



PHILIPPINES: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF BROTHERS TODAY

VISITS TO FORMATION HOUSES IN ASIA

Inspired by the recent XXII General Chapter in having the gathering beyond Rome in Colombia, the International Commission of Brothers Today followed this example of moving from the centre, with having their annual meeting in the Philippines.

The meeting was in two parts: The first part of the meeting was held from April 11 – 17 at the MAPAC where the local community of formators and young men from the districts of Asia and Melanesia made the Commission members very welcomed, even with a welcome meal which included the local delicacy, Balut.

The agenda of the meeting of the International Commission were divided into three main sections: the dreams of the General Chapter, dreaming of a new initial formation and dreaming of a new ongoing formation. The members contributed with great awareness of the Calls of the XXII Chapter as five of the eight participating members were present at the Chapter.

The second part of the gathering involved the visitation of the Formation houses on the island of Mindanao.



From the 18 – 22 April, six members of the Commission visited the formation houses of the province of East Asia. These included the Novitiate in Cotobato, the Aspirancy/Postulancy community in General Santos City and the Post Novitiate Community of Fourvière in Lagao. There was also the opportunity to meet the postulants of the Marist District of Asia in Davao.

During this second part of the gathering, the commission also took part

in a 'Come and See' Vocation weekend, met the Marist Laity at Notre Dame of Marbel University as well as participating in a Marist Family Day in Davao.

The 2018 meeting of the International Commission of Brothers Today was richly memorable, highly informative and a clearer perception of the reality of this vibrant region of our institute was gained, with the direct encounter with the local formators and young brothers in formation.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- Brothers Jeff Crowe and Angel Medina, formators of Lavalla200, are accompanying the two-month formation programme for Lavalla200> international communities, which started Monday, May 7, at the general house and will end on July 7.

- Br Rick Carey and Br Álvaro Sepúlveda, FMSI, are in Geneva, Switzerland

from May 07 – 18 to attend assemblies of Child Rights Connect, World Vision, Catholic International Centre, Global Church Partners Forum and UN activities.

- From Monday to Wednesday, May 7 – 9, Br Libardo Garzón, economer general and Br Carlos Alberto Rojas, director of the Secretariat of

Mission, are at a gathering of Marist publishing houses in Curitiba and São Paulo, Brazil.

- On Friday, May 11, Br Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, will attend a meeting of the superior generals of the four Marist branches, at the general house of the Marist Fathers.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES FOR A NEW BEGINNING

LAVALLA200> THIRD PREPARATION PROGRAMME

The next formation programme for Lavalla200> will be held from May 7 – July 7. It will be the third group of Marists from across the world who have made themselves available for these two months with the intention of joining one of the “international communities for a new beginning”.

As in previous years, the first week will take place in Rome and the following seven weeks at San Martino a Monte (in Tuscany). The final week at the Hermitage concludes with their commissioning by Brother Ernesto Sánchez, superior general.

The new group of 17 participants is made up of Marists coming from all corners of the world: Brother Jorge Gaio, Ju-

liana Fontoura, Diogo Santana and Augusto Santos (Brasil Centro-Sul); and Regina Bisasibetti (Brasil Sur Amazônia); Ricardo Miño and Margarita Pérez (Santa María de los Andes); Br Pierre Joseph Rasolomana (Madagascar), Br Francis Attah (Asia); Br Lazar Hirudayasamy Sebastian and Jiji Dasan (South Asia); Br Anselmo Kim, Dionesio Acosta and Jonnel Sisneros (East Asia); Beth Code (Australia); Rosa Schiaffino (Mediterranea).

This year a De la Salle Brother from Colombia, Br Carlos Caicedo, who is a member of their newly begun community in Tabatinga, will join the programme.

That is, there will be nine Brothers, including one Brother De la Salle, and eight lay people, (two married couples).

This program will introduce people to the original vision of the Lavalla200> communities but with the freshness of the XXII General Chapter which invites us to journey as a global family, a beacon of hope and bridge-builders in this turbulent world, for the sake of children and young people on the margins of life.

Our wish is that through the programme, all these Marists of Champagnat will feel inspired to respond boldly and creatively to today's emerging needs.



THE WELCOMING IN THE GENERAL HOUSE

On May 6, seventeen Marist brothers and lay people were welcomed into the general house of the Institute to start the La Val-la 200> formation programme, making them the third group.

The welcome began with a prayer encouraging participants to think about their vocation with children and young people, especially those most in need.

Afterwards, they all walked in procession to the chapel carrying representative symbols of the mission: the image of the Good Mother, recalling the Marian face of the Church; the document of the XXII General Chapter, representing the Marists of Champagnat; water, representing the expectation of a new beginning; a plant to remind them that they are at the service of life and a candle, representing the Holy Spirit.

Superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez then welcomed



the participants and thanked everyone for their presence and the generous work of Brothers Chris Wills, Angel Medina, Jeff Crowe and Óscar Martín in organising the programme.

He told the participants three inspirational keywords: call – to listen attentively to the call that comes from God; truth – to realise effective discernment; trust – to abandon one's self to God so that He can also contribute to the journey.

After the superior general's words, the participants made a prayer, heard the song “Nous sommes la lumière du monde” (We are the light of the world),

expressed in a word what they were feeling about the experience and closed the opening celebration by singing the Salve Regina. Finally, they had a pleasant moment of coexistence.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ITALY

A group of teachers from the Giugliano College is promoting the celebration of the month dedicated to Mary. During the first hours of classes on Wednesdays and Fridays, we are reflecting on the participation of Our Lady in the work of salvation. Eight topics were chosen and are being accompanied by a text and a video to help in the reflection.

MEDITERRANEA

The Mediterranea province, through SED, is preparing the volunteers who in July and August will dedicate a period of their vacation to projects of the Marist NGO in Bolivia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, India, Lebanon and Peru. The preparation consists of three stages, of which about 50 people will participate.

PHILIPPINES

The members of the MChFM of Kidapawan, a fraternity founded 29 years ago, met for a day's retreat and prayer at the end of April. It was an opportunity to make plans based on the movement's new Life Project. The meeting ended with a dinner with the brothers of the local community.

BRAZIL

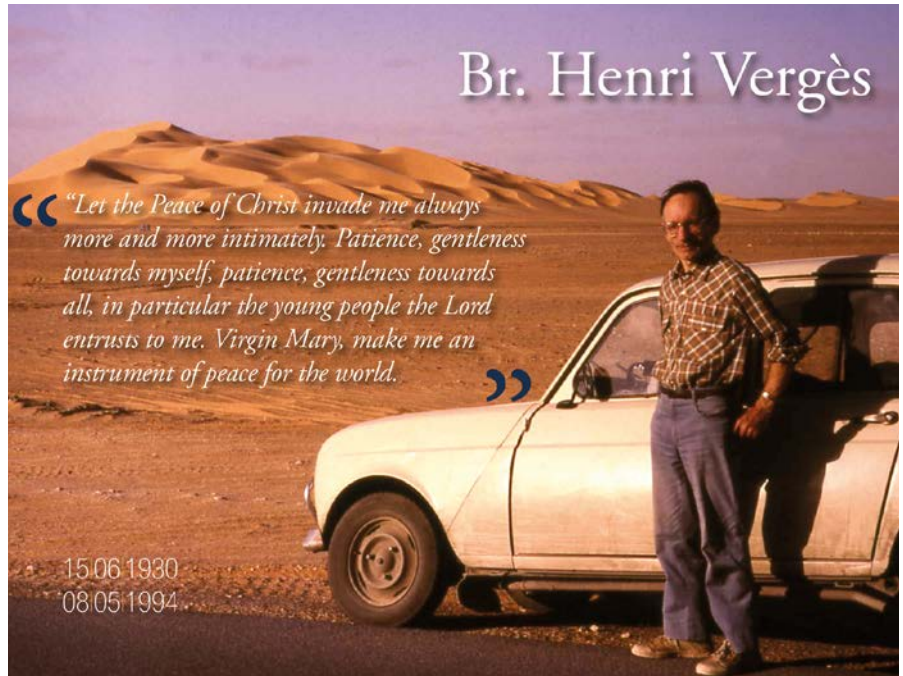
The Catholic University of Santa Catarina is promoting the second edition of the Immigrant Citizens Project, which offers immigrants – mainly from Haiti – the opportunity to learn Portuguese and thus offer the possibility of studying, socialising and getting a job. In addition to the Portuguese, participants will learn about Brazilian culture, workers' rights and other issues essential for day-to-day life.

INDIA

Marcellin Trust - Operation Rainbow organised a five-day summer camp for children from April 25 – 29. One hundred and twenty children and young people participated in the camp. Guest speakers were invited to talk to the children on various topics like the impacts on technology and the culture of consumerism, self-discovery and positive thinking.

MAY 8

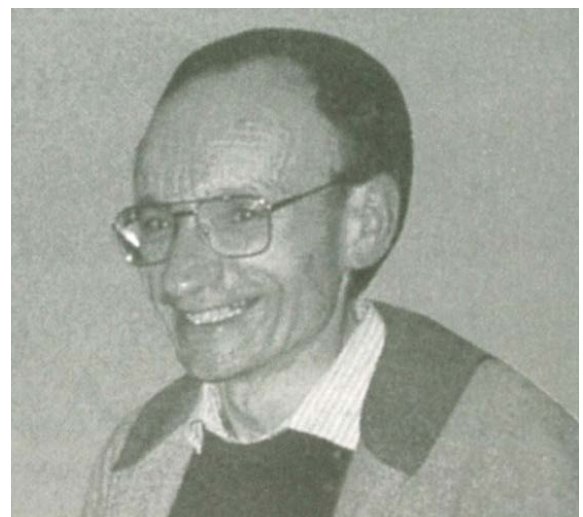
MEMORY OF THE MARTYRDOM OF BR HENRI VERGÈS AND OF SISTER PAUL HÉLENE



On May 8, we remember the martyrdom of Brother Henri Vergès and Sister Paul Hélelene of Saint Raymond, who were murdered in 1994 in the library of Casbah, Algeria. During the following two years, another 17 religious were also martyred during the Algerian civil war.

The decree of the martyrdom of the 19 religious was promulgated by Pope Francis on January 26, 2018 and the "martyrs of Algeria" will soon be beatified. Father Thomas Georgeon, postulator general of the cause of the martyrs of the Church of Algeria, speaking of the 19 Christians killed in the nineties in Algeria affirms that "they have lived together with love with the little ones in the name of Christ, with respect for the faith of the other." Therefore, "paying homage to the 19 Christian martyrs means paying homage to the memory of all those who gave their lives in Algeria in the 1990s."

"It is an opportunity to rediscover the true meaning of the term "martyr", who is a witness," insists Father Thomas. "They did not give their lives for an idea, for a cause, but for Him. They did it with a deep love for the land where the Lord had sent them, Algeria. With evangelical attention and delicacy towards the people, especially towards the smallest and humblest, as well as towards the young people. They did it with respect for the faith of the other and with the desire to understand Islam."



MARIST WORLD



Australia: The Marist Youth Ministry with Br Tony Leon - Adelaide



Bolivia: 160 young people meet the Marist vocational team and the novitiate of Cochabamba



Brazil
Tabatinga: Lavalla200>



Colombia
Colegio La Esperanza, Bogotá



Lebanon
Fratelli Project, Rmeileh



Spain: Maristiada 2018
at Cervantes School - Cordova

BRASIL CENTRO-SUL PROVINCE

PERPETUAL VOWS OF BR RAFAEL FAGNER FERREIRA

In the presence of family members, brothers and friends, Brother Rafael Fagner Ferreira from the Brasil Centro-Surprovince made his consecration to God in a ceremony held on April 21 in Curitiba. Inspired by the biblical proverb "In his mind a man plans his course, but the Lord directs his steps" (Proverbs 16:9), demonstrated his willingness to dedicate his life to the Marist mission and to consecrated life.

"In the face of so much expectation and anxiety, this is the day of saying YES with deep confidence that the will of God is being fulfilled in my life," affirmed Brother Rafael.

"I feel fulfilled and aware that perpetual vows are not a point of arrival, but the starting point in a commitment that I need to seek perseverance every day through spirituality, fraternal life and mission," he added.



The provincial superior, Brother Benê Oliveira, received the vows in the name of the superior general, Brother Ernesto Sánchez. Brother Rafael currently works in Cascável, where he acts as vice-rec-

tor of the Centro Educacional Marista Marcelino Champagnat. In 2015, he completed a theology course at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná and is currently in the fourth year of law.

ASIA WILL DEVELOP GREATER REGIONAL COLLABORATION

THREE COMMISSIONS DEDICATED TO SPIRITUALITY, MISSION, AND LAITY

Three commissions dedicated to spirituality, mission, and laity met from April 9 – 12 in Upper Bukit Timah, Singapore, during which they established ways to develop greater regional collaboration and proposed several activities.

“There is an excitement for us in looking forward to the contribution of Asia in expressing the rich plurality of Asian spiritualities,” affirmed Brother Alberto Carlos Rojas, director of the Secretariat of Mission.

“This is Asia’s contribution to the life of the Marist,” added Br Alberto Carlos, who attended the meeting.

As a follow-up of the previously developed strategic plan for Asia’s New Models of Animation, the commissions met to review the regional vision, strategic guidelines and priorities and to propose activities and programmes to be able to address them during the next 10 years.

Luca Olivari, advisor to the Institute’s general council, helped the commissions define key areas of collaboration to be addressed within the region.

The Asia Spirituality Commission stressed the importance of promoting the Marist spiritual patrimony and a Marist Asian spirituality. The Commission proposed to offer joint opportunities for brothers and lay retreats on local spirituality, including Buddhist retreats and meditations during the next five years.

The Asia Mission Commission was asked to look into the formation of Marist leadership, networking with Marist missions, promoting child rights, promoting an ecological awareness and the development of a volunteering programme across the region.

The goal of the Asia Laity Commission is to intensify



in number and quality of fully committed Marist laity who are deeply rooted in the Marist Asian spirituality and who are co-responsible for Marist life and mission. The Commission planned formation processes for the laity and joint formation with the brothers to achieve greater communion and co-responsibility in Marist life. Foreseeing a future of partnership with the Oceania region, particularly in the animation of laity, the chair of the Oceania Partnership Commission, Daniel Dungey, of New Zealand, shared his experiences and resources to help establish the direction for collaboration between the two regions.

Brother Ador Santiago, who had organised the event, expressed his gratitude to participants and his hopes for more synergized and collaborative undertakings of Asia administrative units, making Asia more dynamic in its response to the call of “journeying together towards becoming a global family.”

COFFEE-COLLOQUIUM IN PALENCIA

MARISTS IN COMPOSTELA DEAL WITH THE THEME OF THE XXII GENERAL CHAPTER

After the “coffee-colloquium” that took place in Orense, there was a second one at the school Colegio Marista Castilla in Palencia, Spain, on April 24.

The theme of the gathering was “XII General Chapter: journeying together as global family”, covered by Brother Ben Consigli, general councillor.

The participants included the four Brothers of the Marist community of Palencia, the director of the school, teachers, parents and people related to the school.

It was a moment of communication



and dialogue during which the desire of the new General Chapter to walk together in a work of evangelization as a “global family” was outlined.

They reflected on the questions “who does God want us to be?” and “what

does God want us to do?” to respond boldly to the emerging needs of being the face and hands of His tender mercy, walking with marginalised children and youth, being creative to be bridge.

LATEST DECEASED BROTHERS

- 05/05/2018:** Higinio Blanco Ciudad
Prov. Cruz del Sur - Paraguay, Coronel Oviedo
- 24/04/2018:** Ailton dos Santos Arruda
Prov. Casa general - Brazil, Recife
- 24/04/2018:** Kevin Joseph Power
Province Pacific - New Zealand, Auckland
- 15/04/2018:** Joseph Richard
Prov. L'Hermitage - France, Genis-Laval
- 08/04/2018:** Thomas More
Prov. Australia
- 07/04/2018:** Ildefonso García de Longoria Carreño
Prov. Compostela - Spain, Madrid
- 05/04/2018:** José López Alameda
Prov. Compostela - Spain, Burgos
- 04/04/2018:** Laurindo Viacelli
Prov. Brasil Sul-Amazônia, Porto Alegre
- 01/04/2018:** Roque Inocencio Farneda Rolando
Prov. Cruz del Sur - Argentina, Luján
- 01/04/2018:** Emmanuel Allassan Achemah
Prov. Nigeria, Ejule
- 01/04/2018:** Mariano Varona Gregorio
Prov. Santa María de los Andes - Chile, Sótero Sanz
- 30/03/2018:** Rafael Pesca Correa
Prov. Norandina - Colombia, Armenia
- 12/03/2018:** Fernando Rodríguez Acero
Prov. Mediterránea - Spain, Benalmádena, Málaga
- 09/03/2018:** Nuno Maria de Oliveira Pereira
Prov. Brasil Centro-Norte, Recife
- 08/03/2018:** Edmund Danny Herd
Prov. Central Europe - Scotland, Glasgow
- 02/03/2018:** Jacques Roux
Prov. Canada, Château-Richer
- 01/03/2018:** Jérôme Bliekast
Prov. L'Hermitage - France, Saint Genis-Laval
- 25/02/2018:** Vincent Benedict Moriarty
Prov. United States of America, Miami
- 22/02/2018:** Vicente Marín Delgado
Prov. Mediterránea - Spain, Benalmádena, Málaga
- 18/02/2018:** Valerià Simón
Prov. L'Hermitage - Spain, Girona
- 04/02/2018:** Robert Reddington
Prov. United States of America, Bronx, New York
- 03/02/2018:** Eugenio Gallinger
Prov. Cruz del Sur - Argentina, Luján
- 31/01/2018:** John Venard Smith
Prov. Australia, Ashgrove
- 29/01/2018:** José Luis Salazar Sobrevilla
Prov. Ibérica - Spain, Lardero
- 27/01/2018:** Edmund John (Benet) Bourke
Prov. Australia
- 24/01/2018:** Josep Cortina Capdevila
Prov. L'Hermitage - Spain, Avellanes

GUATEMALA: VOCATIONAL PROCESSES IN AMÉRICA CENTRAL

The brothers who work in the Marist works of Guatemala met on April 22 to share the life and walk of the province of América Central.

Brother Juan Antonio Sandoval, provincial councilor, and Nohemy Pinto, provincial coordinator of the laity, encouraged them to share their thoughts throughout the morning at the Liceo Guatemala.

The reflection revolved around the vocational processes that the province offers to the Marists of Champagnat. It was a space to get to know, deepen, clarify doubts and value all the



initiatives and processes of vocational accompaniment that both brothers and laity currently are experiencing.

The moments to share each other's thoughts were carried out in small groups, divided by communities.

Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

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